

Attorney Docket No. 55877-8011.US00

wave segment. As seen, the plot shows a relatively small slope ($\Delta x/\Delta y$) in the wave regions adjacent the peaks and the greatest slope in the center region of the segment between the looped peaks. The point of greatest slope, corresponding roughly to midpoint 42 between the peaks, is an inflection point in the plot, as the slope of the plot increases between points 40 and 42, then begins to decrease between points 42 and 44. Further, with reference to Figs. 1 and 3, the distance between opposite sides of a wave segment in the contracted state is at a minimum at a point intermediate the looped peaks, where opposite sides of a wave appear to be touching in the two figures. --.

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In the claims, please amend claims 1 and 13 as follows.

1. (Amended) A stent designed for catheter delivery to a target neurovascular site via a tortuous path in a contracted state, and deployment at the target site in an expanded state, comprising

a plurality of expandable tubular members, each member being composed of a continuous wire element forming a plurality of wave segments, each segment containing a pair of opposite looped peaks and having a wave shape such that, in the stent's expanded state, the distance between adjacent sides of a wave on proceeding from a peak toward opposite peaks, increases monotonically with an inflection point therebetween, and in the stent's contracted state, the distance between adjacent sides of a wave is a minimum at a point intermediate opposite peaks, and

axial connectors joining adjacent tubular members,

wherein radial expansion of the stent from its contracted to its expanded state is accommodated by movement of adjacent wave-segment peaks away from one another, without significant change in the axial dimension of the stent.

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13. (Amended) A method of treating an aneurysm or other vascular abnormality in a neurovascular target vessel having an inner diameter less than about 8 mm and accessible via a tortuous vascular path, comprising

navigating a guide wire to the target site,

moving over the guide wire, a catheter having a lumen inner diameter of 0.5 to 2 mm and a distal end region in the lumen, and a stent carried in a contracted state within

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the catheter's distal end region, until the catheter distal end is located at the target site, said stent being formed of (i) a plurality of expandable tubular members, each member being composed of a continuous wire element forming a plurality of wave segments, and (ii) axial connectors joining adjacent tubular members, and radial expansion of the stent from its contracted to its expanded state is accommodated by movement of adjacent wave-segment peaks away from one another, without significant change in the axial dimension of the stent,

replacing the guide wire with a pusher wire, and

using the pusher wire to force the stent out of the catheter into the vascular site, where stent radial expansion to its expanded state is effective to lodge the stent at the target site.
